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Security Information

CONFIDENTIAL   19 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-49: Sweden's Position in the East-West Conflict

1. NIE-49 was requested by the JIC at the suggestion of DI/USAF. It is designed to assess Sweden's strategic importance and the consequences of Sweden's position, chiefly in event of war.

2. The revised draft of NIE-49 appears to reflect satisfactorily the consensus of agency views. To our knowledge, no agency reservations are likely.

3. The chief sentences at issue were as follows:

    a. The first sentence of paragraph 7 of the Conclusions presented considerable difficulties. The G-2 representatives, with A-2 and JIC support, wanted it to read that in event of war under present circumstances "we believe that the USSR would probably by-pass Sweden" in attacking Norway. The Board felt that the question of whether or not the USSR would initially invade Sweden was still a highly controversial point and preferred not to make such a flat estimate. There is apparently still much difference of opinion within the Pentagon on this issue, while the British take the position that Sweden would be attacked initially as the only quick and logistically efficient approach to Norway. The present sentence, which reads that the USSR "would seek to by-pass Sweden" is the compromise reached.

    b. Paragraph 32 also presented difficulties. The Board desired to have an initial sentence stating that: "Eventually the development of overall NATO capabilities might cause the USSR to defer the occupation of Norway pending the completion of other operations." However, in view of G-2 and A-2's insistence that the USSR would consider the control of Norway to be a high priority objective under almost any circumstances, the Board agreed to drop this sentence, the substance of which is partially covered in the present rendering.

4. The Board recommends that NIE-49 be accepted as revised.

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